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ABSTRACT

Building organizational linkages between schools and other organizations requires many levels of support, trust, volunteered efforts, and complex understandings of social realities. Drawing on documented accounts and the authors' experiences, this volume presents definitions of interactive partnerships, barriers to school improvement and the culture of schools, concepts for understanding interorganizational developments, modal developmental stages of a partnership, interests and purposes of outside organizations, cooperation and conflict within collaborative endeavors, teacher development and empowerment through interactions with others, interorganizational strategies and structures, leadership styles and assessments for collaborations, and school improvements and future societies. Part 1, "A School Improvement Perspective," argues that partnerships between schools and other organizations have empowered teachers and improved schools. Part 2, "Studies of Partnerships," presents a detailed study of a school-university project and scenarios of school interactions with parent/community groups, businesses, and human service agencies. Part 3, "Evolving Understandings," is devoted to common dynamics and processes found in partnerships from the distinct standpoints of teachers, organizations, leaders, and the larger society. Over time, interactive processes between schools and outside organizations foster evolving understandings of education and better futures. An index is included. (163 references) (MLH)

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